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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,616	02/28/2002	Duane Detwiler	105450-00009	1622
4372	7590	07/20/2004	EXAMINER	
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			GUTMAN, HILARY L	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3612	

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/084,616	DETWILER ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Hilary Gutman	3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 15-27 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 8-10 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Drawings</u>

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 5-7, and ~~13~~¹¹-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ponsonnaille et al.

Ponsonnaille et al. (6,6,59,518) disclose an impact reduction vehicle bumper system comprising: at least two frame rails 12; at least two brackets (as seen in marked-up copy of Figure 8, hereto attached) coupled respectively to the at least two frame rails; a beam 6 attached to the at least two brackets; a plate member 26 attached to the beam; and at least two frame rail extensions 16 (seen in marked-up Figure 8) coupled to the at least two brackets; each bracket of the at least two brackets is disposed between and directly connected to a first longitudinal end face of a corresponding frame rail of the at least two frame rails and either one of a first longitudinal end face and a second longitudinal end face of the beam; wherein the first and second longitudinal end faces of the beam are parallel relative to a longitudinal axis of each frame rail extension and the first longitudinal end face of each frame is orthogonal relative to the longitudinal axis of each frame rail; and wherein each frame rail extension includes a first end face and a second end face opposite the first end face relative to a direction defined by the

longitudinal axis of the frame rail extension, the first end face being coupled to a corresponding bracket and the second end face being disposed forward of a longitudinal front face of the beam.

With regard to claim 5, the brackets are side brackets.

With regard to claim 6, the plate member has a U-shaped cross-section (Figures 1-2).

With regard to claim 7, the plate member has a multi-step U-shaped cross-section (Fig.1).

For claims 11 and 12, it is believed that if the bumper system as recited exhibits the adequate peak force (<7.5 kN) and the adequate peak moment (<510 Nm) then it would follow that other prior art bumper systems having the same features would also exhibit there characteristic results.

With regard to claim 13, the impact reduction system is a vehicle front bumper.

With regard to claim 14, the front bumper is mounted on a vehicle that meets ride height and fascia angle requirements for an alternative upper legform impactor test.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ponsonnaille et al. as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of the well known prior art.

With regard to claims 2-4, Ponsonnaille et al. lack the plate member, beam, brackets, and frame rail extensions being steel. However, Ponsonnaille et al. do disclose bumpers bars of the well known prior art being made of steel or aluminum (Column 1, lines 58-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the plate member, beam, brackets, and frame rail extensions of Ponsonnaille et al. out of steel since this material is well known for use in the bumper art for appropriate impact resistance.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 15-27 are allowed.
7. Claims 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hilary Gutman whose telephone number is 703-305-0496.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 703-308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-3297.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1134.

11. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

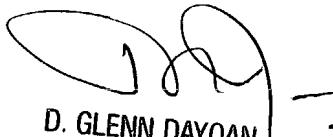
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9327, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")

or:

(703) 746-3515, (for informal or draft communications, please clearly label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").


D. GLENN DAYOAN 7/15/04
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

